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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

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Thefts from Vehicles

July 24, 2013 – Criminals are always looking for an easy target, and leaving a vehicle unlocked with valuables inside, is just that. The Dane County Sheriff's Office wants to alert citizens to a recent rash of thefts from vehicles in the northeast part of the county.

On Tuesday, July 23, a deputy working in the town of Burke took four calls in one morning. Over the past two weeks, several thefts from vehicles were reported in the town of Bristol. In each incident, the thieves entered the vehicle through an unlocked door and took small electronics and cash.

Even though these crimes took place in northeast Dane County, a reminder to lock vehicles and keep valuables out of sight is something everyone can benefit from. Don't be an easy target for thieves, lock your doors and most likely they'll move on to the person that didn't.

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SAFETY TIPS

- Always lock your car doors even if your vehicle is parked in the driveway. (Thieves will go from car to car checking doors and focus on those left unlocked)
- Don't leave electronic or valuable items in plain view. (These are the type of items targeted by thieves and often make your vehicle more appealing. Place these items in an enclosed compartment or under a seat)
- Park near a well lit area or use motion sensors to go on when someone approaches. (Thieves often look for areas of darkness to cover them. Motion sensors will often scare off a would be thief as they do not want to draw attention to what they are doing)
- Pay attention to suspicious activity and don't hesitate to call 911 or 255-2349 to make a request that a deputy check the area. (A physical description of the subject and license plate number are very useful for law enforcement to properly identify who they are looking for)
- Copy any serial numbers or photograph electronic and valuable items so they can be more easily identified if they are stolen. Serial numbers can be entered into a national database for law enforcement to check for stolen items.

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